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PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Idaho Federal Court Sponsors Civics Contest for Idaho High School Students:
“50 Years After the Miranda Decision: How Federal Courts Defined the Rights of
the Accused.”**

BOISE, January 25, 2016: This year marks the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1966 decision, *Miranda v. Arizona*, in which the court ruled that someone taken into police custody must be informed – prior to questioning – of their right to remain silent. This decision became the basis for what is now referred to as a “Miranda Warning” or a recitation of “Miranda Rights.”

In recognition of this landmark decision, the United States District Court for the District of Idaho, in conjunction with the Courts and Community Committee of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, is sponsoring a state wide civics contest entitled “50 Years After the Miranda Decision: How Federal Courts Defined the Rights of the Accused.” The contest is open to all sophomore, junior and senior high school students in Idaho.

Students may participate in one of two ways: (1) an individual student may electronically upload an essay between 500 to 700 words in length; and/or (2) a team of not more than 3 students may submit a video from 2 to 3 minutes in length addressing the importance of *Miranda v. Arizona*. Students should learn the facts of the case, understand the court’s decision and discuss the relevancy of the Fifth Amendment, and consider additional rights established by the courts for those accused of crimes.

The Idaho contest opens immediately and all submissions must be made by 5 p.m. Pacific Time on April 15, 2016 to the Ninth Circuit’s website – <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest/>. Entries will be judged on a variety of factors, including clarity and effectiveness in expressing or understanding the theme, originality, understanding of legal principles and compliance with the rules. A complete list of rules for the civics contest, along with links to online resources to learn more about the *Miranda v. Arizona* decision, can be found on the “2016 Civics Contest” page of District of Idaho’s website at www.id.uscourts.gov.

The District of Idaho will select winners for both the essay and video contests by May 6, 2016 and these students be recognized at a reception by June 1, 2016. Prizes of \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place, and \$100 for third place will be awarded in each category. Each of the first place winners from Idaho, along with the winners the other districts within the Ninth Circuit, will automatically be entered into the Ninth Circuit's circuit-wide competition. The top three winners in each category at the circuit-wide competition will receive cash prizes (e.g., first place winners receive \$2,000, second-place \$1,000 and third-place \$500) and recognition at the 2016 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Big Sky, Montana in July 2016.

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